

honor the military and public service of a true legend in Kentucky, Mr. Fontaine Banks. Throughout his many decades of service, Mr. Banks has made countless contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to our nation.

Mr. Banks showed his desire to serve the public at an early age, starting out as president of the Student Government Association at Belfry High School, and later, serving as the president of the Student Council at Berea College.

But Mr. Banks' sense of service extended far beyond his education. Two weeks after graduating from college, Mr. Banks volunteered for the Marine Corps and reported to Parris Island. After basic training, he was deployed to Cho-do Island to fight in the Korean War, where he served two tours of duty in the fall of 1952 and the spring of 1953. He fought courageously with his fellow men and sustained injury while on the battlefield.

After his tour ended, Mr. Banks returned home to Kentucky and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve where he reached the rank of Colonel. He then began his civilian career with IBM and the Kentucky Department of Education, where he quickly moved up in state government. Mr. Banks eventually served as chief of staff to Governors Bert Combs and Ned Breathitt. To this day, he is the only person ever to serve as chief of staff to two Kentucky governors.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Banks has served his country in so many ways: in combat in Korea, as a Marine Colonel, as a public servant, and as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is a fine example of a man dedicating his life to making the lives of those around him better. Mr. Banks has made a career of exemplary service, both to his state and country, and it is with great pride that we thank him for his service today.

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TESSA GRAYBILL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tessa Graybill. Tessa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Tessa's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Tessa has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Tessa can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tessa Graybill for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL  
AM 1490 WMBM

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM. Since its inception in 1995, WMBM's leadership and staff have continued to serve as an important communications tool for the south Florida community. The listeners are fortunate to have a radio station committed to keeping them informed and entertained.

Acquired by New Birth Broadcasting, Inc. on March 10, 1995, WMBM has remained the only 24-hour gospel station in the Miami-Dade area. For the past 15 years, WMBM has distinguished itself through the breadth and depth of its programming, as well as through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout the 17th Congressional district.

With talk programming such as Spirit and Soul: Compassion, Business Showcase: Business in the Black, Business Showcase, Tuesday Talk, Spirit and Soul: Victorious Life Management, Spirit and Soul: Sister to Sister, and Spirit and Soul: Brother to Brother—it is quite clear of WMBM's commitment to provide up-to-the-minute news, empowering its listeners, and playing inspirational and encouraging gospel music.

Moreover, as the first Black-owned and operated radio station in South Florida, WMBM currently has a coverage map of over 1,500,000 homes and businesses. WMBM is also one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the internet.

In 2007, WMBM was the recipient of the Stellar Award Radio Station of the Year, which is a premier gospel event that recognizes and honors African-American artists, companies and organizations in the field of gospel music.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM as it celebrates 15 years of dedicated fellowship through its radio station. WMBM has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming and integrity. It is my hope that WMBM continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration and worship for many years to come. I wish them many more years of outstanding achievement.

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THANKING MR. MICHAEL DOUGLASS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Douglass for 34 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mike began his career at the House in 1975 as a Sales Clerk in the Office Supply Store. Mike's leadership, dedication, and positive attitude were visible to his management and he moved up to become a Sales Clerk filling or-

ders for delivery and then he moved into the Accounting Department. Mike eventually became the Supervisor of the Accounting Department in Office Supply, where he was responsible for the server, software, and business accounting process in the Supply Store. Later he took these skills to play a key role in implementing the House's first fully computerized purchasing system, which continues in use to this day. His people skills were essential to the successful rollout of that system (Procurement Desktop).

Mike eventually became responsible for configuring the purchasing system so that users could purchase goods and services in compliance with best practices and the Office of Inspector General recommendations. With his role in developing recommendations for implementing the system that will replace the current financial system, Mike's valuable contributions to the House community will continue long after he has left. Mike is known by his colleagues for his sound business judgment and problem solving skills. He is also known for his quick wit and fairness.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Michael for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Michael many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

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RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING  
DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the unsung heroes of our ongoing military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq: the Military Working Dogs (MWDs). For over 60 years, military dogs have been working, serving, and risking their lives alongside our brave servicemen and women around the world. Like their handlers, these Military Working Dogs have served this country with honor and distinction, keeping our country safe both at home and abroad.

During World War I, many dogs, beginning with the first military dog, Sergeant Stubby, served alongside American forces overseas. On March 13, 1942, the Army Quartermaster Corps officially recognized and incorporated the so-called K-9 Corps. Between 1942 and 1945, over 10,000 dogs were trained in the War Dogs program. Military dogs have continued to play an important role in the U.S. Armed Forces through the 20th century and into the 21st. Today, these four-legged soldiers serve alongside our soldiers overseas, searching for explosive components, drugs, and IEDs. As they do every day in our homes and yards, these dogs have proven to be man's best friend on the battlefield as well.

I became aware of the important work of Military Working Dogs through Frank Yevchak, a constituent from Hewitt, NJ and founder of Support Our Four-Legged Soldiers. Frank and his organization have sent thousands of dollars of supplies to MWD handlers stationed in Balad, Iraq. Supplies range from cooling vests and blankets to toys and treats—whatever the